

## Message Text

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17

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-13 /097 W

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R 042352Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8402

INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MX

SUBJECT: EXCELSIOR EDITORIAL CONTRADICTS ECHEVERRIA

REF: MEXICO 13934

1. SUMMARY: AN EXCELSIOR EDITORIAL HAS OPENLY REFUTED PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S ASSERTION THAT HE WILL LEAVE A "TRANQUIL" COUNTRY TO HIS SUCCESSOR, AN INDICATION THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL POWER TO INTIMIDATE POTENTIAL CRITICS IS SLIPPING. END SUMMARY.

2. PARA 5 REF NOTED THAT CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, USUALLY INDIRECT, IS BECOMING MORE OPEN IN THE WANING DAYS OF THE INCUMBENT ADMINISTRATION. A NOVEMBER 3 EXCELSIOR EDITORIAL TAKING DIRECT ISSUE WITH A STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT PROVIDES A STRIKING EXAMPLE.

3. PRESIDENT, SPEAKING AT INAUGURATION OF DAM IN CHIAPAS STATE 11/2, SAID THAT HE WAS LEAVING TO HIS SUCCESSOR A "TRANQUIL" COUNTRY, WITH NO MORE ANXIETIES THAT WAS NORMAL IN A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY. IN RESPONSE EXCELSIOR EDITORIAL SAID THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS WOULD BE DIS-

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CONCERTING TO ANYONE AWARE OF THE PRESENT ECONOMIC

SITUATION, SINCE THERE WAS NO CORRELATION BETWEEN IT AND THE PRESIDENT'S DESCRIPTION OF IT. EDITORIAL ADDED IT DID NOT BELIEVE THE FUTURE WOULD NECESSARILY BE CATASTROPHIC, BUT CALLED FOR MORE REALISM IN PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE NEW EXCELSIOR EDITORS ARE ANXIOUS TO SHOW THEIR INDEPENDENCE OF THE ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION IN ORDER TO REFUTE THE PREVAILING BELIEF THAT ECHEVERRIA MANAGED THE OUSTER OF SCHERER GARCIA FROM EXCELSIOR LAST JULY, THE EDITORIAL NONETHELESS IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE PRESIDENT'S WANING ABILITY TO COMMAND THE RESPECT AND SYCOPHANCY WHICH IS NORMALLY HIS DUE.

5. THE PRESIDENT'S CLAIM OF TURNING OVER A HOUSE IN GOOD ORDER, AND EXCELSIOR'S REFUTATION, ALSO INDICATES THAT ECHEVERRIA IS A BIT WORRIED ABOUT HIS PLACE IN MEXICAN HISTORY AND THAT PROBABLY A GOOD MANY MEXICANS ARE EQUALLY DESIROUS OF KEEPING THE RECORD STRAIGHT.  
CALDERHEAD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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